



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**“OPERATION BEANTOWN”**

**MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON  
FEDERAL CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief Mark Driscoll announced that RODERICK “SHAWN” ECHOLS, 36, of Manchester, NH was sentenced today to more than 5 years in prison, on federal crack cocaine distribution charges.

On December 19, 2002, ECHOLS entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro to a four count indictment alleging that he distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack cocaine,” in Manchester on four separate occasions during 2002. ECHOLS was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers in October, 2002, along with eleven others, as part of their joint “Operation Beantown” investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester.

At today’s sentencing, District Judge Barbadoro imposed a sentence of 63 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which ECHOLS’ behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “Operation Beantown demonstrates our commitment to aggressively prosecuting street-level crack dealers operating in New Hampshire. It is also a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts.”

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the District of New Hampshire’s Lead Attorney on the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (New England OCDEF).